

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for guiding text-to-speech output timing with speech recognition markers comprising the steps of:

91 retrieving tokens in a text-to-speech (TTS) system, said tokens comprising words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags;
identifying said phrase markers among said retrieved tokens;
identifying said words among said retrieved tokens;
playing back said identified words using said TTS system; and,
pausing said TTS playback in response to said identification of said phrase markers.

11. (Amended) A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

92 retrieving tokens in a text-to-speech (TTS) system, said tokens comprising words, phrase markers, punctuation marks and meta-tags;
identifying said phrase markers among said retrieved tokens;
identifying said words among said retrieved tokens;
playing back said identified words using said TTS system; and,
pausing said TTS playback in response to said identification of said phrase markers.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made in response to the Office Action of July 8, 2002 (Office Action). This amendment is filed within the three month shortened statutory period. Accordingly, a petition for an extension of time is not required. At the time of the Examiner's action, claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the Examiner's action, however, each of claims 1-20 have been rejected. Specifically, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, Figures 1 and 2 have been objected to. The Examiner has required correction of the drawings in reply to the Office Action. In response, the Applicants have submitted herewith formal drawings. Accordingly, the